to be able to report that the whole cost, Rs. 7 lakhs, has now been remitted to the Government of India. The total is made up as follows.—

Government recurring contribution up to the end of July 1942	..	Rs. 2,40,000
Lump sum contribution by Government	..	Rs. 1,00,000
Contributions by the public	..	Rs. 3,28,390
Balance still due against which the Government have given an advance	..	Rs. 31,610
Total	..	Rs. 7,00,000

Arrangements are being made by the Government of India for the construction of the ship, though the exact date on which the keel will be laid cannot yet be given. The State War Committee hopes to repay the advance in the near future from subscriptions promised or to be collected. Considering the difficult year through which we have passed the response from the public must be considered satisfactory. The greater part of the money collected came from the well-to-do. It may also be mentioned that during the year 1117 the State has invested Rs. 12·5 lakhs in the Defence Loans.

The activities of the War Publicity Department also stimulated recruiting, carried on under the auspices of recruiting committees. There has been a marked improvement in recruiting in recent months, not only for the fighting services, but also for technician training. Recruiting officers and the Chairman of the National Service Tribunal have testified to the excellent response from this State.

So Cochin has made, during the year, a good contribution to the war effort of the United Nations, but we should endeavour to do still more. As loyal subjects of His Highness, who has shown in such unmistakable fashion his devotion to the cause, let us determine each and all of us to spare no effort to give of our utmost in personal service. There are many ways in which we can help towards victory. The more obvious are to serve in the defence services, or armament factories, to subscribe liberally to war funds or to war loans, or to make propaganda speeches; but there are many who can do none of these things. They too can help, just as surely in an infinite variety of ways. The cultivator who grows more food crops, the dock-worker or railway man who makes an extra effort to speed up the transport of goods, the ordinary men and women who remain calm and steady when others panic, the Government servant who cheerfully does his extra hours of work, all are helping to win the war. Time is passing, and time is all important in this war of humanity against barbarism. This is the first war in history in which no one in the world can afford to be a neutral. It is a war which will decide the future of a planet, it will decide whether the human beings on this earth are to be allowed to live their own lives and to call their souls their own or whether they are all, except a chosen few, to become regimented slaves, condemned for many generations to toil unceasingly for the benefit of a so-called master race, a race which has shown itself to be barbarous, pitiless and inhuman.

So let us pay heed to the stirring farewell message of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester who has so recently left our shores:

> "Lay aside your differences and stand together as one man and fight this fight out, by the side of your friends and allies, fight for your homes, your posterity and your culture. This terrible war can only end with our victory utter and complete."

Let us in Cochin see to it that we, each one of us, play our part in hastening that VICTORY.

Condolence Motion

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Mr. President Sir, "*This Council desires to express, with due respect, its deep sorrow on the lamented demise of H. H. the late Valiamma Tampuran, and its sincere sympathy with His Highness the Maharaja and other members of the Ruling Family, in their sad bereavement*".

In commending this motion to the acceptance of this House I am sure the House will agree with me that it is the solemn duty of this House to give expression to our profound grief on the demise of H. H. the late Valiamma Tampuran, and convey to His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin and the members of the Cochin Ruling Family our heartfelt condolences and sympathy. The loss suffered by the demise of Her Highness on 16th Edavam 1117 is an irreparable one both to the Cochin Public and to the Ruling Family. Her Highness was a good scholar in Sanskrit. The very simple and pious life which Her Highness has led in a manner characteristic of the members of the Cochin Ruling Family deserves to be regarded as an inspiring example to each and every one in Cochin. Born in 1035 Her Highness became the Valiamma Tampuran in 1105, and, ever since then, Her Highness took a very keen interest in

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the welfare of the Ruling Family, as a result of which the Ruling Family prospered in every direction. I commend the motion for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. President : On behalf of the Chair I wish to associate myself with every word which the Hon'ble Minister has said regarding our deep sorrow on the lamented demise of Her Highness the late Valiamma Tampuran. I would now request the House to rise and pass the resolution standing.

The motion was passed nem con all members standing as a mark of respect to the deceased.

Announcement of the names of the Panel of Chairmen

Mr. President : I have to announce that Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar and Mr. A. B. Salem will constitute the Panel of Chairmen for this session.

SPEECH
BY
THE MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development) :*

Mr. President, Sir,

I have great pleasure to avail myself of this opportunity to address the House before the presentation of the budget and place before the Hon'ble Members some of the salient features of the administrative policy, so far pursued and proposed to be followed in future, in respect of the departments entrusted to my care. I hope this will form a proper basis for a correct appreciation and a healthy criticism of the budget during the course of the general discussion. I am deeply grateful to the Hon'ble President for agreeing to this innovation.

Considered in the order of importance, I shall deal with Panchayats first. I am a believer in the principle of granting more and more powers to the Panchayats, which alone will give them the proper incentive to do responsible and useful work in village administration. The very idea underlying the establishment of Panchayats is to train the villagers in local self-government. This is not possible unless adequate powers are given to them. An effective recognition of this principle is given in the budget for the coming year, in that every Panchayat will enjoy the right to prepare its own budget in respect of the original works within its jurisdiction. A sum of Rs. 52,009 has been set apart for this purpose. Half of this allotment has been divided in proportion to the area and the other half in proportion to the population of these Panchayats. It is entirely left to each Panchayat to determine the items of original works on which this allotment is to be spent. I fervently hope that this important reform, which has been effected in the Panchayat administration, will be worked out by every Panchayat with the sense of responsibility it deserves, so that this may be the correct fore-runner of further reforms calculated to enhance the powers and privileges of Panchayats in future. I am not unaware of the probable risks involved in a venture of this kind. There is no experiment without risks. I take this opportunity to appeal, through this House, to every Panchayatdar in the State to prove himself worthy of the trust placed in him and to realise that it is up to him to see that every pie of this allotment is spent in the very best interests of the general public. I may state, for the information of the House, that this experiment was tried on a minor scale in the year 1113, by placing a lump allotment of Rs. 150 at the disposal of each Panchayat. The successful working of that scheme for the last five years must necessarily lead us to a reasonable anticipation that, with proper direction and control, this experiment is bound to be successful.

It has been almost a standing grievance, given expression to by the various Panchayats as well as the Hon'ble Members of this House, that the Panchayat roads are not being properly maintained. I trust that the additional allotment of Rs. 10,000 provided for this purpose will go a long way to redress this grievance.

The working of the Panchayat courts has been subjected to severe criticisms both inside and outside this Council. With a view to consider the possibilities of reforming the present system, a committee was constituted during the time of my predecessor-in-office to go into the working of these courts and submit a report suggesting modes of improvement. The committee has submitted a valuable report to the Government and it is under consideration. The Government hope to introduce in this House a comprehensive Bill in the near future. Any suggestions which the Hon'ble Members may have to offer on the recommendations of the committee will receive the earnest consideration of the Government when drafting the Bill.

To those who have examined the real character of the constitutional reforms in Cochin, I need hardly explain that the extent of their beneficial results largely depends upon the finances at

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